

Date: Wed, 18 May 94 04:30:11 PDT
From: Ham-Policy Mailing List and Newsgroup <ham-policy@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Ham-Policy-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Ham-Policy@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Ham-Policy Digest V94 #211
To: Ham-Policy

Ham-Policy Digest Wed, 18 May 94 Volume 94 : Issue 211

Today's Topics:

Code test speeds

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Send subscription requests to: <Ham-Policy-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

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We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 18 May 94 15:52:33 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Code test speeds
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

Hi folks,

after my last article and the answers it received, I still have some (more)
points to criticize :

1. Bill, wb9ivr%pubs%genav.mlb@ns14.cca.cr.rockwell.com

commented about the multiple choice question scheme. Bill, I did not get that.
Do you mean that the test session for the code contains a story that people
listen at, and then they answer questions based on what they heard? If that's
the way it is done, then I start feeling that my passing the test **was** an
accomplishment. You see, in Greece the test consists of random send letters
and numbers, not forming any word. And you have to copy about 5 minutes of it,
to pass. Interesting!!

2. Jay Maynard, K5ZC jmaynard@admin5.hsc.uth.tmc.edu

commented about my mentioning that people use seat belts instead of airbags. What I meant with those words, is that there are people resisting change, due to natural (but probably exaggerated) inertia. I for sure, did not propose to use only an airbag, with no seat belts. Being an ex-rally driver, I know the merits of seat belts, that's why my car is equipped with a four-point seat belt, instead of just a 3-point one.

3. David R. Tucker, KG2S 8P9CL drt@world.std.com

commented on my saying about liking the code. David, you are probably judging from your position, of an experienced code user. The only world-wide accepted abbreviations are those included in the Q-code. All others have probably evolved thru the usage of the code, and are not in any way standard. That's why a guy sends TNX, while another sends TNK, and still another sends TKU. I do not know if these abbreviations are standard in US, but they definitely are not in Europe. Also, do I remember correctly, that there is an article in the ITU regulations saying that we are not allowed to use encrypted (in any way) transmissions?

David also commented about my sending CQ faster than I could handle. I just want to point out, that when you are a new, eager ham, you cannot control your speed so well. You are just eager to communicate (at least, if you took over amateur radio because you like communicating with people). If I knew that it was a criminal offense, I assure you I would have left that portion of the bands for you seasoned code users, not even bother to contact people, so egoistic as you. I have thought that amateurs were understanding people, eager to help. Probably skewed that, if everyone in the lower part of the bands is so helpful. As far as newcomers bands are concerned, why don't you apply the same practice on your highways also, it would save the US government a lot of lives (and dollars), from all those who are not capable of controlling a car at 55mph on a road. Make special lanes for them and let people who *can* drive and correctly adjust their vehicle speed, drive at whatever speed they think is appropriate for the conditions. It will help alleviate the traffic problems also.

David also commented about my multiple choice questions and he actually went as far as warranting my apology. Well David, if I learned one thing in my life, it is to apologize when I did something wrong and not simply because someone asks me for. My friend, your reasoning that published, multiple choice questions are used to remove ambiguity stands much criticism, and does not prove that I am wrong. It simply implies, that you do not even trust your examiners for formulating questions in such a way, that they can take a non-ambiguous answer. I, for example, am sure that VEs *can* do it, and it will for sure help distinguish the capables from the ones almost-there, much better than the current system. As a result, do not (in any way) expect me to apologize for your (and possibly others) insecurities. I went thru 6 years of high school and lyceum, 5 years of university and never had a multiple choice test. I saw one, only when I came to US for graduate studies, and believe me

they were a piece of cake to pass, compared to my pre-graduate tests. A published, multiple choice exam is as difficult to pass, as winning a poker game, when your opponent's cards are open on the table. Simply a joke!

As far as my manners are concerned David, I do not know how you really connect them to my liking (or not) of CW. Nowhere in my message, did I insult anyone. I was just wondering your reasoning for having tests, the way they are now. Or were you offended, because I criticized the American way of life? My attitude (about the code) could have influenced me, but my attitude, my friend, was formulated partly by persons like you, who think that amateur radio is some sort of competition, with barriers and rules separating some with a modem-ear, from others who prefer human speech to dits and dahs. Or for those who cannot communicate with someone in 5wpm, because the poor soul made the mistake of keying CQ at 8wpm and then stepped down.

Relax David, this whole affair is just a hobby, like growing cabbages in your garden. Do you go and pull them up, if they do not grow as rapidly as the book says they will?

Best 73 de SV1CEC

John Caradimas

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+-----+
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+-----+
| CQ Zone : 20          Locator : KM17UX          ITU Zone : 28 |
+-----+
| DISCLAIMER : The opinions expressed above, are strictly of   |
|              my own, not representing anybody else.          |
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Date: 18 May 94 06:24:39 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!ihnp4.ucsd.edu!library.ucla.edu!news.ucdavis.edu!
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References <ZY10FYj.ndfriedman@delphi.com>, <ddtodd.92.00118771@ucdavis.edu>,

<xY+01K0.ndfriedman@delphi.com>
Subject : Re: Code test speeds

Neil D. Friedman <ndfriedman@delphi.com> writes:

>Daniel D. Todd <ddtodd@ucdavis.edu> writes:

>

>>PS. Is this new reason for exams specifically espoused by the FCC? If so,
>>where?

>

>This was the point of the whole "incentive licensing" battle of the mid-
>1960's. Your point of view lost. That era was among the most bitter and
>divisive in the history of ham radio.

I realize this is the way things are now. I don't like it but I do
understand. where though, is it written in the FCC rules or a position paper
etc. that states this as the purpose of testing? If it is not written it will
be easier to challenge and petition to change.

cheers,
Dan

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Charter Member: Dummies for UNIX

When radios are outlawed, only outlaws will have radios
- David R. Tucker on rec.radio.amateur.policy

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End of Ham-Policy Digest V94 #211
